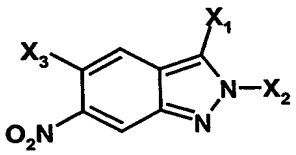
CLAIMS

We claim:

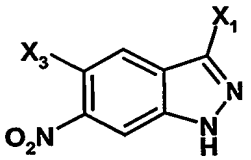
1. A process for preparing a compound of formula (R),



(R)

comprising the step of :

reacting a compound of formula (Q)



(Q)

with an alkylating agent,

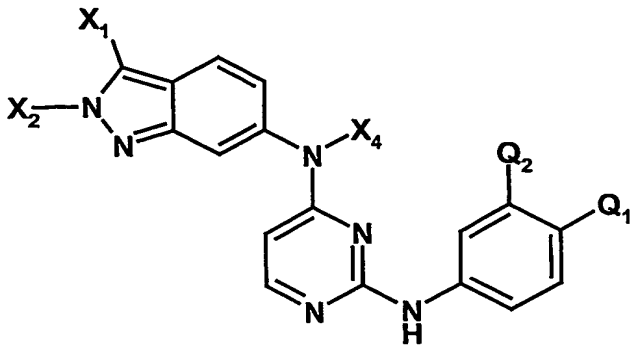
wherein

X_1 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, or C_1-C_4 hydroxyalkyl;

X_2 is C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 haloalkyl, or aralkyl; and

X_3 is hydrogen or halogen.

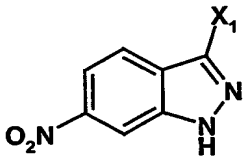
2. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I)



(I)

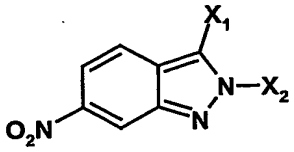
comprising the step of:

reacting a compound of formula (Q')



(Q')

with an alkylating agent to prepare a compound of formula (R'),



(R')

wherein:

X_1 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

X_2 is C_1-C_4 alkyl or benzyl;

X_4 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

Q_1 is A^1 or A^2;

Q_2 is A^1 when Q_1 is A^2 and Q_2 is A^2 when Q_1 is A^1;

wherein

A^1 is hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_3 alkyl, C_1-C_3 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, and

A^2 is the group defined by $-(Z)_m-(Z^1)-(Z^2)$, wherein

Z is C(R')(R''), where R' and R'' are independently selected from -H or C_1-C_4 alkyl, or R' and R'' together with the carbon to which they are attached form a C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl group and m is 0, 1, 2, or 3;

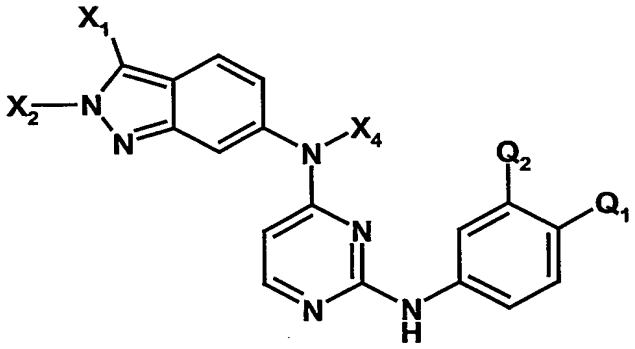
Z^1 is $S(O)_2$, S(O), or C(O); and

Z^2 is C_1-C_4 alkyl, NR^1R^2, aryl, arylamino, aralkyl, aralkoxy, or heteroaryl,

R^1 and R^2 are each independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, $-S(O)_2R^3$, and $-C(O)R^3$; and

R^3 is C_1-C_4 alkyl or C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl.

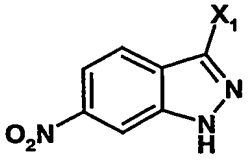
3. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I)



(I)

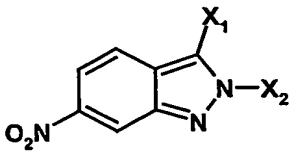
comprising the steps of:

(i) reacting a compound of formula (Q')



(Q')

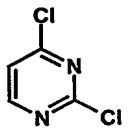
with an alkylating agent to prepare a compound of formula (R'),



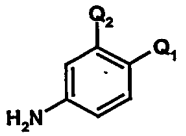
(R')

; and

(ii) converting the compound of formula (R') to the compound of formula (I), said converting step comprising serial condensation with a compound of formula (A') and then a compound of formula (A")



(A')



(A") ,

wherein:

X_1 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

X_2 is C_1-C_4 alkyl or benzyl;

X_4 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

Q_1 is A^1 or A^2;

Q_2 is A^1 when Q_1 is A^2 and Q_2 is A^2 when Q_1 is A^1;

wherein

A^1 is hydrogen, halogen, C_1-C_3 alkyl, C_1-C_3 haloalkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, and

A^2 is the group defined by $-(Z)_m-(Z^1)-(Z^2)$, wherein

Z is C(R')(R"), where R' and R" are independently selected from -H or C_1-C_4 alkyl, or R' and R" together with the carbon to which they are attached form a C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl group and m is 0, 1, 2, or 3;

Z^1 is $S(O)_2$, S(O), or C(O); and

Z^2 is C_1-C_4 alkyl, NR^1R^2, aryl, arylamino, aralkyl, aralkoxy, or heteroaryl,

R^1 and R^2 are each independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl, -$S(O)_2R^3$, and -$C(O)R^3$; and

R^3 is C_1-C_4 alkyl or C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl.